

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your continued leadership to meaningfully address the COVID-19 pandemic. Your Administration's announcement to purchase an additional 500 million COVID-19 tests to distribute to Americans for free comes at a dire time where it is clear the pandemic is not behind us. We are writing to respectfully ask that your Administration provide the necessary COVID-19 rapid test kits to help our state battle this latest surge in COVID-19 cases and provide guidance that ensures school communities are safe.

The toll of COVID-19 is far-reaching in our state where we have lost more than 62,000 New Yorkers, the COVID-19 positivity rate is 18 percent, and the number of children hospitalized due to COVID-19 rose from 85 at the start of December to 571 in early January. With the rapid spread of the virus comes increased demand for COVID-19 testing. At-home COVID-19 testing kits have also become scarce at pharmacies, forcing New Yorkers to wait in long lines at testing sites.

The need for COVID-19 rapid test kits in New York is palpable. Rapid COVID-19 tests provide New Yorkers not only with the ability to test in the comfort of their own home, but also help alleviate the hours-long lines seen at brick and mortar and mobile testing sites since late December. Without an adequate supply of COVID-19 rapid test kits, our efforts to limit the spread of the virus are compromised and all but ensure continued surges and loss. We further emphasize the need to ensure at-home tests are made available free of charge to remove barriers that may otherwise prevent people from receiving the care they need and keeping our communities healthy and safe.

Thank you again for your leadership to address the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to continuing to work with you to defeat this virus.

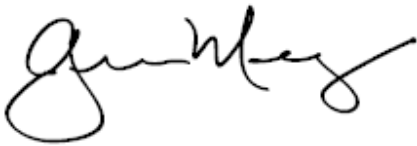
Sincerely,



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator




Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____


Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____


Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education

The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention